

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims: 1. (Currently amended) A telephone set configured for use with a private branch exchange system and a voice mail system, comprising:

- a) a housing having an upper surface;
- b) a dialing interface mounted in the housing, the dialing interface being in communication with a call management interface of the private branch exchange system;
- c) a plurality of dialing keys arranged in a dialing grid at the housing upper surface and operably connected to the dialing interface; and
- d) a voice message alert and retrieval device separate from the plurality of dialing keys, substantially larger than any of the dialing keys, and located apart from the dialing grid, comprising a message key operably connected to the dialing interface, and a light source beneath the message key that causes emission of a visible light from the message key, wherein the dialing interface generates a message retrieval control signal in response to activation of the message key to deliver voice mail messages from the voice mail system to a user of the telephone set, and wherein the light source is responsive to a voice message waiting signal generated by the call management interface,  
the message key having a distinct visual impression, apart from its emission of visible light, compared to its adjoining keys, and having a centerpoint that is spaced apart from a centerpoint of a first key adjoining the message key by a distance that differs from a distance between the centerpoint of the first key and a centerpoint of a second key adjoining the first key.

2. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message retrieval control signal comprises a predetermined series of dialing digits.

3. (Original) The telephone set of claim 2, further comprising a memory in operable connection with the dialing interface, wherein the memory stores data corresponding to the predetermined series of dialing digits for initiating the message retrieval control signal.

4. (Original) The telephone set of claim 3, further comprising a central processing unit operably connected to the dialing interface, the memory, and the call management interface.

5. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, further comprising a speaker mounted in the housing to deliver the voice mail messages to the user.

6. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the dialing interface generates a dual tone multifrequency signal.

7. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the telephone set and the call management interface are connected by a telephone line.

8.-12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a light emitting diode.

14. (Original) The telephone set of claim 13, wherein the light emitting diode is mounted below an upper surface of the message key.

15. -17. Cancelled.

18. (Currently amended) A telephone set for use with a central call management system connected to a voice mail system, comprising:

- a) a housing having a connection for a telephone cord;
- b) a dialing interface mounted in the housing;
- c) a plurality of dialing keys attached to the housing and operably connected to the dialing interface;
- d) a transceiver electrically connected to the dialing interface and in communication with a call management interface;

e) a voice message alert and retrieval device substantially larger than any of the dialing keys, integrated in the housing and located outside a line defining the outer periphery of the dialing keys, comprising a message key having a shape that differs from the shape of each of the dialing keys, operably connected to the dialing interface, and a light source below the message key that causes emission of a visible light from the message key, wherein the dialing interface generates a message retrieval control signal in response to activation of the message key, and wherein the light source is responsive to a voice message waiting signal generated by the call management interface and received through the transceiver;

f) a transmitter attached to the housing and electrically connected to the transceiver; and

g) a receiver attached to the housing and electrically connected to the transceiver, wherein [a single] an action [of] by a user of activating the message key causes voice messages to be retrieved and played through the receiver, and wherein the message key presents a distinct visual impression, apart from its emission of visible light, compared to its adjoining keys.

19. (Currently amended) A voice message indicator for a telephone, the voice message indicator comprising:

a light source that emits light when a voice message is waiting,

a first key that, when manipulated by a user of the telephone, causes transmission of a message retrieval signal to cause voice mail messages to be provided to a user of the telephone, and

a plurality of dialing keys spaced away from the first key, wherein the first key is larger than and shaped differently than the dialing keys, and

wherein the light source is located below and emits light through the first key.

20. (Currently amended) A telephone comprising:

a message indicator light;

a plurality of dialing keys;

a message access key comprising an upper surface that is substantially exclusively transparent and is shaped differently than and positioned away from the plurality of dialing keys, wherein the light is integrated with and mounted below the message access key, and the message access key is substantially larger than the dialing keys; and

a telephone speaker that provides audible access to one or more voice messages stored on a central voice messaging system located remotely from the telephone, wherein activation of the message access key causes the one or more voice messages to be output on the telephone speaker.

21. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key has a visibly different shape than its adjoining keys.

22. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key is spaced apart from each of one or more adjoining keys by a distance that differs from the spacing between each of the one or more adjoining keys and a next adjoining key of each of the one or more adjoining keys.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Previously presented) The telephone of claim 20, wherein the telephone communicates with the central messaging system through a private branch exchange.

25. (Previously presented) The telephone of claim 24, wherein the message indicator light is powered from a telephone line connecting the telephone to the private branch exchange.

26. (Previously presented) The telephone of claim 25, further comprising a visual display that provides information about call status.

27. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key comprises an upper surface made of a translucent material.

28. (Previously amended) The telephone set of claim 27, wherein the message key defines a downward facing recess and the light source extends at least in part into the recess.

29. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a light emitting diode.

30. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source is provided continuously with power when a voice message waiting signal is present.

31. (Previously presented) The telephone set of claim 20, wherein the message key comprises an upper surface made of a translucent material.

32. (Previously amended) The telephone set of claim 31, wherein the message key defines a downward facing recess and the light extends at least in part into the recess.

33. (Previously amended) The telephone set of claim 20, wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

34. (Previously Amended) The telephone of claim 20, further comprising a plurality of programmable function keys for accessing frequently-called numbers.